

DETAILED ACTION

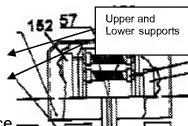
Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082). Korchagin et. al. discloses a mass rescue system comprising at least one upper rotatable support, at least one lower rotatable support disposed below said at least one upper rotatable support, at least one elongate flexible element 251,252 wound about said at least one upper and at least one lower rotatable supports, a gear box 57, and at least first and second rescue platforms 3, 58, mounted on said at least one elongate flexible element at locations therealong arranged with respect to said upper and lower rotatable supports such that downward motion of said first rescue platform produces concomitant upward motion of said second rescue platform and vice versa, said first and second rescue platforms, when loaded to different weights, being operative to undergo upward and downward motion produced by gravitational



acceleration and without requiring an external energy source

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082). Korchagin et. al. discloses a mass rescue system according to claim 1 and wherein said at least one elongate flexible element 251, 252, comprises at least one first elongate flexible element which is wound over said upper rotatable support and at least one second elongate flexible element which is wound under said lower rotatable support, as best in Figure 1.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082). Korchagin et. al. discloses a mass rescue system according to claim 1 and also comprising at least one guiding element 17, which is operative to guide said first and second rescue platforms.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082). Korchagin et. al. discloses a mass rescue system according to claim 5 and wherein said at least one guiding element 17, comprises at least one rigid element as recited in paragraph [0034].

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082). Korchagin et. al. discloses a mass rescue system according to claim 5 and wherein said at least one guiding element 17, comprises at least one elongate flexible element 251,252, as best seen in Figure 4.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082). Korchagin et. al. discloses a mass rescue system according to claim 1 and wherein at least one of said first and second rescue platforms comprises a cabin, as best seen in Figure 1.

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082). Korchagin et. al. discloses a mass rescue system according to claim 1 any of the preceding claims and also comprising at least one buffer 53, for final stopping of vertical motion of said first and second rescue platforms, as best seen in Figures 1 and 4.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Hyacinthe (7377218). Korchagin et. al. as advance above fails to disclose a mass rescue system according to claim 1 and also comprising a dynamic resistance device. Hyacinthe teaches the utility of a dynamic resistance device, as recited in column 1, lines 42-49, operative to employ potential energy of said at least first and second rescue platforms for braking downward motion thereof. The use of dynamic resistance devices are commonly used in the art to allow for easy movement/transition of rescue platform which are attached to cables. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the rescue device of Korchagin et. al. with a dynamic resistance device as taught by Hyacinthe, so as to allow for easy movement/transition of rescue platform which are attached to cables.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Hernandez (6318503). Korchagin et. al. as advanced above fails to disclose a mass rescue system according to claim 1 wherein said at least one elongate flexible element comprises a looped elongate element. Hernandez teaches the utility of a loop elongated element, as best seen in Figure 1. The use of a looped elongated element is commonly used in the art to prevent free falling of a rescue device when a counterweight is attached. Therefore, it would have been obvious to provide the rescue device of Korchagin et. al. with a looped elongated element, as taught by Hernandez, so as to assist in preventing free falling of a rescue device when a counterweight is attached.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Keegan et. al. (5671824). Korchagin et. al. as advanced above fails to disclose a mass rescue system according to claim 1 and also comprising a counterweight. Keegan et. al. teaches the utility of a counterweight 20, operative to provide initial downward motion under gravitational acceleration and without requiring an external energy source. The use of a counterweight is commonly used in the art to prevent free falling of a rescue device by balancing the weight on an elongated element. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the rescue device of Korchagin et. al. with a counterweight as taught by Keegan et. al. so as to prevent free falling of a rescue device by balancing the weight on an elongated element.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Hernandez (6318503). Korchagin et. al. as advanced above further discloses a mass rescue system according claims 4 and wherein at least one of said first and second rescue platforms includes at least one guide assembly which rides along said at least one guiding element and which is operative to reduce transverse displacement of said rescue platform, as best seen in Figure 7.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Keegan et. al. (5671824). Korchagin et. al. as advanced above fails to disclose a mass rescue system according to claim 1. Keegan et. al. teaches the utility of a counterweight 20, and wherein at least one of said first and second rescue platforms also comprises a safety assembly operative to prevent free-fall of said rescue platform, as best seen in Figure 2. The use of a counterweight is commonly used in the art to prevent free falling of a rescue device by balancing the weight on an elongated element. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the rescue device of Korchagin et. al. with a counterweight as taught by Keegan et. al. so as to prevent free falling of a rescue device by balancing the weight on an elongated element.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Orgeron (4520900). Korchagin et. al. as advanced above fails to disclose a mass rescue system according to claim 1 also comprising at least one stair unit associated with said first and second rescue platforms.

Orgeron teaches the utility of stairs as a component of a rescue system being commonly used in the art, as recited in column 1, lines 46-49. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the rescue system of Korchagin et. al. with a stair component to the rescue system as taught by Orgeron to provide an additional rescue component to the rescue device.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082). Korchagin et. al. as advanced above further discloses a mass rescue system according to claim 1 wherein at least one of said first and second rescue platforms also comprises at least one door and at least one door safety element operative to prevent vertical motion of said rescue platform while said at least one door is open, as best seen in Figure 1.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082). Korchagin et. al. as advanced above further disclose a mass rescue system according to claim 1 and wherein at least one of said first and second rescue platforms also comprises at least one of a first aid kit and a communications device 70.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Hyacinthe (7377218). Korchagin et. al. as advanced above fails to disclose a mass rescue system according to claim 2 wherein said dynamic resistance device. Hyacinthe teaches the utility of a dynamic resistance device operative to slow vertical motion of at least one of said first and second rescue platforms to a speed which is less than a predetermined speed. The use of dynamic

resistance devices are commonly used in the art to allow for easy movement/transition of rescue platform which are attached to cables. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the rescue device of Korchagin et. al. with a dynamic resistance device as taught by Hyacinthe, so as to allow for easy movement/transition of rescue platform which are attached to cables.

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Hyacinthe (7377218). Korchagin et. al. in view of Hyacinthe as advanced above fails to disclose a mass rescue system according to claims 2 wherein said dynamic resistance device also comprises a reducing gearbox and a fan descender. However it is commonly known in the art that a fan descender and reducing gear box is commonly used in the art as a component of a dynamic resistance device which assist in controlling the speed of the rescue platform while in operation.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Hyacinthe (7377218). Korchagin et. al. in view of Hyacinthe as advanced above further discloses a mass rescue system according to claim 16 and wherein said dynamic resistance device also comprises a position dependent gear controller operative to control the gear ratio of said reducing gearbox as a function of a vertical position of at least one of said first and second rescue platforms. The use of a controller is commonly known in the art as a required component to allow for manual control of a rescue device. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the rescue device of Korchagin

in view of Hyacinthe with a position dependent gear controller, so as to allow for manual control of a rescue device.

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Hyacinthe (7377218). Korchagin et. al. in view of Hyacinthe, as advanced above a mass rescue system according to claim 17 and wherein said dynamic resistance device also comprises a visually sensible position indicator associated with said position dependent gear controller. The use of a visually sensible position indicator is commonly used in the art to allow for an operator of a rescue device to have a reference point as to where to position the device.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Hyacinthe (7377218) in further view of Keegan et. al. (5671824). Korchagin et. al. in view of Hyacinthe as advanced above fails to disclose a mass rescue system according to claim 2 and wherein said dynamic resistance device also comprises a mechanical brake assembly. Keegan et. al. teaches the utility of a mechanical brake assembly 170, operative, when in a first position, to prevent vertical motion of said first and second rescue platforms. The use of mechanical brakes are commonly used in the art to provide for precise and easy braking when required. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the rescue device of Korchagin et. al. in view of Hyacinthe with a mechanical brake assembly as taught by Keegan et. al. so as to provide for precise and easy braking when required.

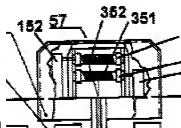
Claims 20-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Hyacinthe (7377218) in further view of Keegan et. al. (5671824). Korchagin et. al. in view of Hyacinthe in further view of Keegan et. al. (5671824) as advanced above fails to disclose a mass rescue system according to claim 19 and wherein said mechanical brake assembly also comprising a handle which is selectably movable between said first position and a second position to enable a user to selectably operate said system. The use of a handle is commonly used in the art to manual control the braking assembly. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the rescue device of Korchagin et. al. in view of Hyacinthe in further view of Keegan et. al. with a handle to manually control the braking assembly.

It would have been further obvious in view of the structure as advanced above to use the rescue system in the method as claimed, i.e., providing upper and lower rotatable supports, providing a dynamic resistance governing motions, providing at least on guiding element, operating a brake assembly, providing a counterweight, and loading the first platform to a lower weight than that of the counterweight, while producing no new and unexpected results.

Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Keegan et. al. (5671824). Korchagin et. al. as advanced above discloses a mass rescue system, as best seen in Figure 1, comprising an upper rotatable support, a lower rotatable support disposed below said upper rotatable support, at least one elongate flexible element 251,252, wound about

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said upper and lower rotatable supports, as best seen in Figure 1, and a first rescue



platform — but fails to disclose a. Keegan et. al. teaches the utility of a counterweight 20, mounted on said at least one elongate flexible element 25, at locations therealong arranged with respect to said upper and lower rotatable supports such that downward motion of said first rescue platform 10, produces concomitant upward motion of said counterweight and vice versa, said first rescue platform having a weight, when loaded to at least a first predetermined extent, which is greater than a weight of said counterweight and thus being operative to undergo downward motion produced by gravitational acceleration, causing concomitant upward motion of said counterweight, and said first rescue platform having a weight, when unloaded to at least a second predetermined extent, which is less than the weight of said counterweight and thus said counterweight is operative to undergo downward motion produced by gravitational acceleration, causing concomitant upward motion of said first rescue platform, when unloaded to at least a second predetermined extent. The use of a counterweight is commonly used in the art to prevent free falling of a rescue device by balancing the weight on an elongated element. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the rescue device of Korchagin et. al. with a counterweight as taught by Keegan et. al. so as to prevent free falling of a rescue device by balancing the weight on an elongated element.

Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Keegan et. al. (5671824). Korchagin et. al. in view of Keegan et. al. as advanced above fails to disclose a mass rescue system according to claim 27 and wherein said counterweight comprises at least a second rescue platform having a weight, when unloaded to at least a second predetermined extent, which is less than the weight of said first rescue platform, when loaded to at least a third predetermined extent and thus said counterweight is operative to undergo downward motion produced by gravitational acceleration, causing concomitant upward motion of said first rescue platform, when unloaded to at least a second predetermined extent. It has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art.

Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Keegan et. al. (5671824) in further view of Hyacinthe (7377218). Korchagin et. al. in view of Keegan et. al. as advanced above fails to disclose a mass rescue system according to claims 27 comprising a dynamic resistance device operative to employ potential energy of said first rescue platform for braking downward motion thereof. Hyacinthe teaches the utility of a dynamic resistance device operative to slow vertical motion of at least one of said first and second rescue platforms to a speed which is less than a predetermined speed. The use of dynamic resistance devices are commonly used in the art to allow for easy movement/transition of rescue platform which are attached to cables. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the rescue device of Korchagin et. al. with a

dynamic resistance device as taught by Hyacinthe, so as to allow for easy movement/transition of rescue platform which are attached to cables.

Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Keegan et. al. (5671824). Korchagin et. al. in view of Keegan et. al. as advanced above further disclose a mass rescue system according to claim 27 and wherein said at least one elongate flexible element comprises at least one first elongate flexible element 251, which is wound over said upper rotatable support and at least one second elongate flexible 252, element which is wound under said lower rotatable support, as best seen in Figure 1.

Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Keegan et. al. (5671824) in further view of Hernandez (6318503). Korchagin et. al. in view of Keegan et. al. as advanced above fails to disclose a looped elongated element. Hernandez teaches the utility of a loop elongated element, as best seen in Figure 1. The use of a looped elongated element is commonly used in the art to prevent free falling of a rescue device when a counterweight is attached. Therefore, it would have been obvious to provide the rescue device of Korchagin et. al. with a looped elongated element, as taught by Hernandez, so as to assist in preventing free falling of a rescue device when a counterweight is attached.

Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Keegan et. al. (5671824). Korchagin et. al. in view of Keegan et. al. further discloses a mass rescue system according to claim 27

comprising at least one guiding element 25, which is operative to guide said first rescue platform 10, and said counterweight 20.

Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Keegan et. al. (5671824). Korchagin et. al. in view of Keegan et. al. further discloses a mass rescue system according to claim 32 and wherein said at least one guiding element 17 comprises at least one rigid element, As best seen in Figure 1.

Claim 34 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Keegan et. al. (5671824). Korchagin et. al. in view of Keegan et. al. further discloses a mass rescue system according to claim 32 and wherein said at least one guiding element 17 comprises at least one elongate flexible element 251.

Claim 35 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Keegan et. al. (5671824). Korchagin et. al. in view of Keegan et. al. further discloses a mass rescue system according to claim 27 wherein said first rescue platform comprises a cabin 3.

Claim 36 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Keegan et. al. (5671824). Korchagin et. al. in view of Keegan et. al. further discloses a mass rescue system according to claim 32, wherein said first rescue platform 3, includes at least one guide assembly 17 which rides along said at least one guiding element and which is operative to reduce transverse displacement of said first rescue platform, as best seen in Figure 1.

Claim 37 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Keegan et. al. (5671824). Korchagin et. al. in view of Keegan et. al. further discloses a mass rescue system according to claim wherein said first rescue platform also comprises a safety assembly operative to prevent free-fall of said first rescue platform. Keegan et. al. teaches the utility of a counterweight 20, and wherein at least one of said first and second rescue platforms also comprises a safety assembly operative to prevent free-fall of said rescue platform, as best seen in Figure 2. The use of a counterweight is commonly used in the art to prevent free falling of a rescue device by balancing the weight on an elongated element. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the rescue device of Korchagin et. al. with a counterweight as taught by Keegan et. al. so as to prevent free falling of a rescue device by balancing the weight on an elongated element.

Claim 38 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Keegan et. al. (5671824) in further view of Orgeron (4520900). Korchagin et. al. in view of Keegan et. al. as advanced above fails to disclose a mass rescue system according to claim 27 and also comprising at least one stair unit associated with said first rescue platform. Orgeron teaches the utility of stairs as a component of a rescue system being commonly used in the art, as recited in column 1, lines 46-49. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the rescue system of Korchagin et. al. with a stair component to the

rescue system as taught by Orgeron to provide an additional rescue component to the rescue device.

Claim 39 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Keegan et. al. (5671824). Korchagin et. al. in view of Keegan et. al. further discloses a mass rescue system according to claim 27 and wherein said first rescue platform 3, also comprises at least one door and at least one door safety element operative to prevent vertical motion of said first rescue platform while said at least one door is open.

Claim 40 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Keegan et. al. (5671824). Korchagin et. al. in view of Keegan et. al. further discloses a mass rescue system according to claim 27 and wherein said first rescue platform also comprises at least one of a first aid kit and a communications device 70.

Claim 41 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Keegan et. al. (5671824) in further view of Hyacinthe (7377218). Korchagin et. al. in view of Keegan et. al. in further view of Hyacinthe further discloses a mass rescue system according to claim 29 and wherein said dynamic resistance device is operative to slow vertical motion of said first rescue platform to a speed which is less than a predetermined speed, as recited in column 1, lines 41-52.

Claim 42 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Keegan et. al. (5671824) in further view of

Hyacinthe (7377218). Korchagin et. al. in view of Keegan et. al. in further view of Hyacinthe as advanced above fails to disclose a mass rescue system according to claims 29 wherein said dynamic resistance device also comprises a reducing gearbox and a fan descender. However it is commonly known in the art that a fan descender and reducing gear box is commonly used in the art as a component of a dynamic resistance device which assist in controlling the speed of the rescue platform while in operation.

Claim 43 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Keegan et. al. (5671824) in further view of Hyacinthe (7377218). Korchagin et. al. in view of Keegan et. al. in further view of Hyacinthe as advanced above further discloses a mass rescue system according to claim 16 and wherein said dynamic resistance device also comprises a position dependent gear controller operative to control the gear ratio of said reducing gearbox as a function of a vertical position of at least one of said first and second rescue platforms. The use of a controller is commonly known in the art as a required component to allow for manual control of a rescue device. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the rescue device of Korchagin in view of Keegan et. al. in further view of Hyacinthe with a position dependent gear controller, so as to allow for manual control of a rescue device.

Claim 44 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Keegan et. al. (5671824) in further view of Hyacinthe (7377218). Korchagin et. al. in view of Keegan et. al. in further view of

Hyacinthe, as advanced above a mass rescue system according to claim 17 and wherein said dynamic resistance device also comprises a visually sensible position indicator associated with said position dependent gear controller. The use of a visually sensible position indicator is commonly used in the art to allow for an operator of a rescue device to have a reference point as to where to position the device.

Claim 45 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Keegan et. al. (5671824) in further view of Hyacinthe (7377218). Korchagin et. al. in view of Keegan et. al. in further view of Hyacinthe as advanced above fails to disclose a mass rescue system according to claim 29 and wherein said dynamic resistance device also comprises a mechanical brake assembly. Keegan et. al. teaches the utility of a mechanical brake assembly 170, operative, when in a first position, to prevent vertical motion of said first and second rescue platforms. The use of mechanical brakes are commonly used in the art to provide for precise and easy braking when required. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the rescue device of Korchagin et. al. in view of Hyacinthe with a mechanical brake assembly as taught by Keegan et. al. so as to provide for precise and easy braking when required.

Claim 46 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Keegan et. al. (5671824) in further view of Hyacinthe (7377218). Korchagin et. al. in view of Keegan et. al. in further view of Hyacinthe as advanced above fails to disclose a mass rescue system according to claim 45 and wherein said mechanical brake assembly also comprises a handle which

is selectably movable between said first position and a second position to enable a user to selectably operate said system. Korchagin et. al. in view of Hyacinthe in further view of Keegan et. al. (5671824) as advanced above fails to disclose a mass rescue system according to claim 19 and wherein said mechanical brake assembly also comprising a handle which is selectably movable between said first position and a second position to enable a user to selectably operate said system. The use of a handle is commonly used in the art to manual control the braking assembly. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the rescue device of Korchagin et. al. in view of Hyacinthe in further view of Keegan et. al. with a handle to manually control the braking assembly.

Claims 47-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korchagin et. al. (2005/0023082) in view of Keegan et. al. (5671824). Korchagin et. al. in view of Keegan et. al. further discloses a mass rescue system according to claim 27, and also comprising at least one buffer 53, for final stopping of vertical motion of said first rescue platform, as best seen in Figures 1 and 4 .

It would have been further obvious in view of the structure as advanced above to use the rescue system in the method as claimed, i.e., providing upper and lower rotatable supports, providing a dynamic resistance governing motions, providing at least on guiding element, operating a brake assembly, providing a counterweight, and loading the second platform to a lower weight than that of the counterweight, while producing no new and unexpected results.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CANDACE L. BRADFORD whose telephone number is (571)272-8967. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am until 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Katherine Mitchell can be reached on (571) 272-7069. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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May 27, 2008